

## BIOHAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) provides biohazardous waste disposal services to Concordia's internal departments. Disposal of biohazardous waste is free of charge provided the waste is presented properly. Due to the nature of this material, all disposal procedures outlined in this document are mandatory and must be respected in order to ensure safe and efficient collection and disposal of biohazardous waste.

### 1. CONTAINERS

Specific containers must be used based on the type of biohazardous waste for disposal: sharps, anatomical, or non-anatomical. The following containers are available for each type:

<p>For biohazardous <b>SHARPS</b> <i>e.g. needles, syringes, scalpels, glass Pasteur pipets, slides</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 4L yellow puncture-proof container</li> <li>▪ 2L white puncture-proof container</li> </ul>	
<p>For <b>ANATOMICAL</b> biohazardous waste <i>e.g. human or animal tissues (fixed or unfixed), carcasses, organs and body parts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cardboard box with inner bag</li> <li>▪ 20L red pail</li> </ul>	
<p>For <b>NON-ANATOMICAL</b> biohazardous waste <i>e.g. human or animal cell cultures, stocks, microorganisms specimens, items contaminated with blood or body fluids, 5/10/25mL pipettes, pipet tips, plastic Pasteur pipettes, etc.</i></p> <p><b>NO</b> anatomical waste, animal carcasses or animal body parts <b>NO</b> loose sharps, needles, slides or breakable glassware</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Black bin with inner yellow bag</li> </ul>	

**Note:** Biohazardous waste containers are for solid waste only. DO NOT dispose of liquids inside any biohazardous waste container. Consult your SOP for appropriate disinfection and disposal of any biohazardous liquids.

Biohazardous waste containers are provided free of charge to Concordia labs, studios, and workshops. To obtain waste containers:

- **Loyola campus:**
  - 4L sharps containers can be obtained from the FAS Central Stores in SP 132.02
  - Other biohazardous waste containers can be requested from EHS at [hazardouswaste@concordia.ca](mailto:hazardouswaste@concordia.ca)
- **SGW campus:**
  - All biohazardous waste containers can be requested from EHS at [hazardouswaste@concordia.ca](mailto:hazardouswaste@concordia.ca)

## 2. STORAGE & HANDLING

Biohazardous waste containers must be stored properly until ready for disposal. Ensure the containers are kept closed and away from the regular garbage. Animal carcasses must be placed in bags and then placed in the designated biohazardous freezer. Material placed in the biohazardous freezer must be recorded in the freezer logbook.

When disposing of biohazardous waste inside a container:

- Do not bend, shear, recap, or remove needles from syringes
- Never reach your hands inside a container, especially those that could contain sharps
- Do not overfill biohazardous waste containers
- Do not try to compact waste inside the container

## 3. DISPOSAL

To prevent contamination of the environment and protect everyone from unnecessary exposure, biohazardous waste must *never* be disposed of with regular garbage. An appropriate disinfection, sterilization, or collection procedure must be followed.

### 3.1. Chemical Disinfection

Cell or bacteria culture waste can be destroyed by chemical disinfection.

If using a bleach solution for disinfection, prepare water and bleach to a final concentration of 5,000 ppm sodium hypochlorite (note that the concentration of sodium hypochlorite varies between brands of bleach; consult the label or SDS for this information). Mix the waste and disinfectant solution, then let them sit in an uncapped container under a chemical fume hood at room temperature for one hour.

Other suitable disinfectant solutions may also be used, provided they are effective against the biological material(s) in use. Follow the relevant laboratory SOP and manufacturer's guidance when preparing dilutions and during disinfection.

Once disinfected, the liquid waste can be discarded down the drain inside a chemical hood. Run fresh tap water for a few minutes after dumping the bleached waste.

### **3.2. Autoclaving**

Autoclaving must be reserved for RG1 biohazardous waste only. Appropriate cycle lengths for the sterilization of RG1 waste are established based on the model of autoclave to be used: contact the manager of your autoclave facility for information and training. Only trained and authorized users are permitted to operate the autoclaves.

Biohazardous waste that has been autoclaved can be disposed of as regular garbage. Place the autoclave bag inside a regular garbage bag, then seal the bag.

### **3.3. Collection**

Full and closed biohazardous waste containers are collected by EHS upon request. To request a pickup:

- Clearly identify any containers that contain animal carcasses or other anatomical waste.
- Note the number and location of containers to be collected.
- Send the information for pickup by e-mail to [hazardouswaste@concordia.ca](mailto:hazardouswaste@concordia.ca).

Biohazardous waste pickups occur on a scheduled, weekly basis on both the Loyola and SGW campuses.  
*Note: pickups from the CSBN freezer take place every second week.*

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**For questions or inquiries regarding biohazardous waste disposal, contact:**

Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)  
514-848-2424, ext. 4877  
[hazardouswaste@concordia.ca](mailto:hazardouswaste@concordia.ca)